



**To: Members of the Joint Committee On Transparent Policing  
and Use of Force Reform**

**From: Jason Myers, Executive Director**  
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

**Chief Jim Ferraris, President**  
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

**Date:** September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

**Re: Testimony re LC 20 – Oregon Use of Force Database**

**Good afternoon Co-Chairs Bynum and Manning and Members of the Committee,**

On behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, please accept this testimony regarding LC 20 (Oregon Use of Deadly Force Database).

As drafted, LC 20 would create a new Oregon state-wide database of reports of use of physical force by peace officers and corrections officers and deaths of persons in custody. The measure would require law enforcement units to report on the use or threat of physical force, and the deaths of persons in custody to the Criminal Justice Commission which is tasked with creating the database, analyzing the data and submitting reports to the legislature.

As an alternative to LC 20 and the cost of creating a new database during a time of economic crisis, we recommend language that would require agencies to participate in an already established FBI National Use of Force Database that is paid for and maintained with federal resources. Over the past year, the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and Oregon State Sheriffs' Association has worked hard to encourage police agencies and sheriff's offices to voluntarily enroll in the program and submit detailed information regarding officer use of force incidents. As of the date of this testimony, a large percentage of Oregon agencies are enrolled and reporting including the Oregon State Police, Portland Police Bureau, Salem Police Department and Eugene Police Department.

In addition to avoiding the cost of creating a new database, the FBI use of force database will allow an “apples to apples” comparison of data from state to state. We also confirmed that the data can be easily accessed and downloaded by the Criminal Justice Commission for the purpose of conducting state specific analysis and reporting of the data. Here is our recommendation for bill language:

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, “law enforcement unit” has the meaning given that term in ORS 181A.355.**

**(2) Every law enforcement unit shall participate in the National Use-of-Force Data Collection system operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Participation includes collecting and reporting all uses of force and related data collected by that system.**

Additional language directing the Criminal Justice Commission to access the data and to report to the appropriate legislative committee can be added.

Thank you for your consideration